

as an oversight group and constantly evaluate results and set aggressive goals for diversity in PDC construction projects.

They've worked with minority business associations to put in place technical assistance agreements to focus on building capacity among historically underutilized businesses. PDC will implement a prompt payment requirement making sure that small contractors get paid quickly for their work, and just last month, PDC implemented a Small Contractor Loan Insurance program that gives small contractors access to working capital through a revolving loan. This will be a huge help to small firms that are struggling to attain credit with banks.

I commend PDC for what they've done, and what they have planned to make sure that public construction projects benefit the entire community and not just a select few.

**RECOGNIZING STAFF SERGEANT
TIM COPELAND—SCOTTSDALE
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO
MILITARY" HONOREE**

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a member of the Armed Forces from my home state of Arizona. Every month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors military personnel who perform diligent service to this country. Scottsdale Healthcare has recognized U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Tim Copeland for the month of February.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for his bravery and service to our country.

Copeland has served as an Information Systems Operator and Analyst for the Army since 1992. He has been deployed twice to Kuwait and is currently deployed for a two-year tour at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

During his service Copeland has received numerous awards, all of which serve as a tribute to his honorable character. He has received the Presidential Service Badge, two Joint Meritorious Unit Awards, a Joint Service Commendation medal, two Army Commendation medals and seven Army Achievement medals.

Staff Sergeant Copeland is the brother of Clare Copeland, who works in the Emergency Department Admitting Office at Scottsdale Healthcare. Clare is an avid supporter of the military partnership training program.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the inspiring efforts of this courageous citizen who is serving our country and protecting the lives of his fellow service men and women in combat.

**CONGRATULATING MR. IRA
LEESFIELD FOR HIS ACCOM-
PLISHMENTS IN THE LEGAL
COMMUNITY**

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ira Leesfield

on being a recipient of the American Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Award. This prestigious award honors leaders in the legal profession for both their overall excellence in the workplace and their contributions to the community. Mr. Leesfield has always welcomed the challenge to serve the underserved, and it is this devotion that has earned him one of the American Jewish Committee's highest honors.

Mr. Leesfield carries himself with great integrity, respect, and dedication in everything he does for his profession and for his community. A look into his background shows just how successful he has been on both of these fronts. In 1976, Ira Leesfield founded Leesfield & Partners, dedicating his professional life to protecting the courtroom rights of the firm's clients throughout Florida and the United States. He currently holds record personal injury verdicts and settlements in a plethora of jurisdictions, earning him recognition as one of America's top ten trial lawyers.

However, Mr. Leesfield's interest reaches far beyond monetary figures as he has been recognized for prosecuting cases that benefit the public interest. He has received the American Occupational Rehabilitation Training (ORT) Jurisprudence Award for his dedication to his profession, as well as the prestigious Jurisprudence Award from the Anti-Defamation League for his success in gaining access to the courts for the less privileged. Ira was elected President of both the Melvin M. Belli Society and the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers after receiving each organization's respective awards: the Belli Award and the Al J. Cone Lifetime Achievement Award.

A resident of Florida since 1956, Ira is an American Bar Foundation Fellow, life member of the American Association for Justice as well as the Roscoe Pound Foundation, and a past adjunct professor at the University of Miami School of Law. Mr. Leesfield's success hits close to home as his many accomplishments have greatly benefited myself as well as the great people of Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize Mr. Ira Leesfield for his dedication to the legal profession and to the South Florida community as a whole.

**TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE "LARRY"
KING**

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent, Lawrence "Larry" King.

Two years ago this week, Larry was shot by a fellow student while at school in Oxnard, CA.

He died 2 days later. The police classified his murder as a hate crime.

He was 15 years old.

In addition to our local community, almost 200 vigils in all 50 States were held to honor Larry's life.

Two years later, Larry's death continues to remind us of the violence and harassment directed at lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people every day.

This violence is unacceptable anywhere and particularly painful in our schools.

I think every American believes all our children deserve an education free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence.

In honor of Larry and all LGBT students, I would like to encourage my colleagues to support the Student Non-Discrimination Act.

This important bill establishes a comprehensive Federal prohibition of discrimination in public schools based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

We know that bullying deprives students of equal educational opportunities.

It also causes high rates of absenteeism, dropout, adverse health consequences, and academic underachievement among LGBT youth.

Without interference, bullying and discrimination leads to life-threatening violence and suicide.

Also, when school officials engage in discriminatory treatment, or are indifferent to harassing behavior, LGBT students' constitutional rights are infringed.

This is deplorable.

In Larry's memory, we owe our children nothing less than a safe environment and the support they need to learn most effectively.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF
THE UNITED STATES**

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, Whereas, DeKalb County serves as home for many of our Veterans that have served in the United States Military; and

Whereas, forty-nine years ago servicemen who fought in wartime joined forces to form the "VFW Belvedere Post 4706"; and

Whereas, our beloved country, has and continues to benefit from the service of the members of the VFW Post 4706 in the areas of leadership, service and scholarship to our community; and

Whereas, this unique group has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve integrity, advocate for our enlisted service personnel and veterans; and

Whereas, the VFW Post 4706 continues to serve our country by being involved in the planning, organizing and conducting of ceremonies that commemorate and recognize those who served our country in the United States military, our children who desire scholarships to gain higher education and veterans who have fallen to homelessness; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor, recognize and congratulate the VFW Post 4706 on their 49th Anniversary for their outstanding service to our District;

Now therefore, I, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., do hereby proclaim February 21, 2010, as Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 4706 Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 21st day of February, 2010.

HONORING DR. DON T. NAKANISHI

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a pioneer in the field of Asian American political and educational research, and one of my dearest mentors, Dr. Don T. Nakanishi, on his retirement as director and professor of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

Dr. Nakanishi's 20-year tenure at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, the largest and most renowned research and teaching institute of its kind in the Nation, has provided key leadership and vision for the development of the field of Asian American Studies and Race and Ethnic Relations Scholarship. His contributions to this invaluable field of study date back nearly 4 decades.

Born and raised in the multiethnic, working class community of East Los Angeles, California, Professor Nakanishi attended Theodore Roosevelt High School, where he served as student body president. He was also selected as boy mayor of the City of Los Angeles when he was a senior.

A political scientist, Dr. Nakanishi received his B.A. in political science from Yale University in 1971, and his Ph.D., also in political science, from Harvard University in 1978.

A professor at UCLA for 35 years, Dr. Nakanishi is a prolific writer and highly influential teacher and scholar who has written over 100 books, articles, and reports on the political participation of Asian Pacific Americans and other ethnic and racial groups in American politics; educational research on issues of access and representation; and the international political dimensions of minority experiences.

Dr. Nakanishi is widely recognized for developing the fields of Asian American political and educational research. He has received numerous awards for his scholarly achievements and public service, including the National Community Leadership Award from the Asian Pacific Institute for Congressional Studies, the prestigious Yale Medal from Yale University, and the inaugural Engaged Scholar Award from the Association of Asian American Studies.

Because of his accomplishments, President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Nakanishi to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund board of directors, which administered the program established under the 1988 Civil Liberties Act that provided a national apology and reparations for the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in concentration camps during World War II.

I urge all my House colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Don Nakanishi for his remarkable service and contribution to our community.

COMMEMORATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPE LEADERSHIP

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of

Tempe Leadership. Tempe Leadership has continuously identified bright and exceptional community members and nurtured their leadership skills through education, experience, exposure and service.

In its 25 years, Tempe Leadership has played an essential role in fostering tomorrow's community leaders. To date, Tempe Leadership boasts more than 400 graduates, including highly accomplished elected officials, board members, and numerous business and non-profit executives. Each year, participants of the program tackle a class project, which utilizes their skilled and unskilled physical labor to give back to Tempe.

I would like to congratulate Tempe Leadership on 25 years of success, and express my gratitude for the profound contributions its graduates have made to our community's quality of life. Because of Tempe Leadership, their positive impact on our community will be felt for decades to come.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Tempe Leadership's impressive 25 years of service. The program's dedication to enhancing Tempe leaders should serve as an inspiration to us all.

RECOGNIZING EDWARD PATE AS
THE SANTA ROSA COUNTY
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Edward Pate upon receiving the Santa Rosa County, Florida Teacher of the Year Award. Edward is a dedicated teacher and public servant, and I am honored to recognize his Teacher of the Year achievement.

Edward joined Gulf Breeze High School in 2005 following a career as an attorney and ceramics gallery owner in New York City. He currently teaches English III and Pensacola Junior College Dual Enrollment classes. These core classes have achieved a passing rate of 94 percent or better during his tenure. Edward also coaches the Boys Golf Team, this year's District 2A Champion and a state Academic Team Champion. The team had the highest cumulative GPA of the 251 schools in District 2A.

Edward serves on the PTSO Board, the SAC Committee, and the RtI Committee. He received his National Board Certification in 2008 and serves as the English Department Chair. As Department Chair, he is developing a new department-wide program to assess and improve student writing. He always imparts a positive attitude to his students and other teachers, and his high level of energy inspires the entire school.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Edward Pate as the Santa Rosa Teacher of the Year. He is a true public servant and a dedicated teacher. My wife Vicki and I wish Edward and his family all the best for the future.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GWINN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Gwinn United Methodist Church, UMC, during its centennial celebration. For 100 years, the Gwinn UMC has been a gathering site for worship, teaching and fellowship in the Gwinn community. Its rich history can be traced through families who have been members of the church for generations, while its welcoming atmosphere continues to attract new members.

Just a short drive south of Lake Superior, Gwinn United Methodist Church is bound tightly to the history of the Upper Peninsula. The community of Gwinn was built to support the iron mines of Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Mining Company, which still operates in the Marquette County today. As Cleveland-Cliffs president William G. Mather began to build his "model town," a group of settlers in nearby Princeton organized a church group and began plans for a Methodist church.

Land for the Gwinn United Methodist Church was deeded to the congregation by William Mather in 1909, and on October 15, 1909, the cornerstone of the church was laid by Mather himself. The church was formally dedicated on February 20, 1910, by its first pastor, Reverend Simon Hocking.

As the community of Gwinn grew and prospered, so did Gwinn UMC. Over the years, modifications have been made to the building, including the addition of an education wing, a remodeled chancel area in the sanctuary, and the construction of a parsonage on property adjoining the church. Gwinn UMC also welcomed its first full-time minister in 1984, having previously shared pastors with several nearby communities. Even as the church has grown, it has also stayed connected with its roots; today's congregation still worships in the original 1909 pews.

While its history is impressive, Gwinn UMC's most inspiring attribute is the outpouring of support and assistance it provides to the Gwinn community. The church has opened its doors to be used by groups including Head Start, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, and Alcoholics Anonymous. On the second Wednesday of each month, members of the congregation prepare a free evening meal for the community, serving 707 people in 2009, fostering a sense of fellowship and camaraderie between neighbors and friends. The church also provided 344 bags of groceries to 235 families last year through its weekly food pantry.

Through its Children's Love Fund, Gwinn UMC provides assistance to families of area children needing extensive medical treatment; and through its Endowment Fund, the church provides gifts and grants to individuals, organizations and missions locally, regionally and globally. Since 2002, \$11,300 has been provided to missions through the Endowment Fund.

Madam Speaker, from its earliest days Gwinn United Methodist Church has been connected to the Gwinn community through history and tradition. The spirit and principles